GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2147
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children died due to deficiency of Vitamin `A` during each of the last three years, State- wise;

(b) the demand and availability position of Vitamin `A` doses and the number of children benefited by it during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether there is a gap between the demand and supply of Vitamin `A` in the country;

(d) if so, the measures taken to meet this gap and achievements made as a result thereof;

(e) whether any scheme has been formulated for the States lagging behind in this field;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of the funds scheduled for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise; and

(h) the basis on which such allocation has been made?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS):

(a) Vitamin A deficiency is not a direct cause for death of children. Deficiency of Vitamin A can adversely affect growth and vision in children.

(b) The All India percentage of children covered in the age group of 12-35 months of Vitamin A dosage is 21. The State-wise, details of children covered as per NFHS-ill data (2005-06) is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The State-wise details of children covered less than one year of age is given in the enclosed Statement-It.

(c) to (f) Government has a strategy to supplement all children in the age group of six months to five years with Vitamin A at six monthly intervals. The objective is to decrease prevalence of Vitamin A deficiency from the current 0,7% to 0.3% among children under ;han five years of age. 2,84,729 kits are distributed throughout the country each year under the RCH Programme, each kit containing 6 bottles of 100 ml each. This allocation is on the basis of the average number of children under five years, under each facility, catering to approximately five thousand population. UNICEF assists the Government by supplying Vitamin A to the States, whenever need arises.

(g) and (h) Currently funds are being released to all the States for procurement of essential supplies, including Vitamin A, under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) Programme, which was launched in the year 2005, as part of the National Rural Health Mission.State-wise details of the releases made under RCH-II, for the last two years are given in the enclosed Statement-III.